Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 /054 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4941

CONFIDENTIAL BUDAPEST 4149

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, HU

SUBJECT: JANUARY 1976 US-HUNGARIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS SEMINAR

REF: (A) STATE 302578, (B) BUDAPEST 4012

- 1. EMBASSY DEEPLY APPRECIATES BACKGROUND INFORMATION REF A. IT WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF MESSRS. CAMPBELL, DIEBOLD AND OTHER U.S. PARTICIPANTS AT CHANCERY ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 25.
- 2. BY SHEER CHANCE, MCAULIFFE ENCOUNTERED PROFESSOR SIMAI AT DECEMBER 18 SOCIAL EVENT (PRIOR REPEAT PRIOR REFTEL A) AND WAS TOLD THAT PLANS WERE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY FOR JANUARY US-HUNGARIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS SEMINAR. SIMAI THEN SAID HE HAD LEARNED FROM COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS THAT "DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAD APPROVED" MCAULIFFE'S PARTICIPATION IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS SEMINAR. MCAULIFFE REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR HIM TO PARTICIPATE IN ACADEMIC CONFERENCE OF THIS SORT AND THAT HE WOULD DECLINE ANY SUCH INVITATION UNLESS DEPARTMENT SENT HIM EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS TO DO SO. SEVERAL POINTED QUESTIONS FAILED TO INDUCE PROFESSOR SIMAI TO DIVULGE NAME OF HIS CFR SOURCE.
- 3. MCAULIFFE AGAIN OFFERED TO HOST SOCIAL EVENT IN HONOR OF AMERICAN AND HUNGARIAN SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS. PROFESSOR SIMAI EXPRESSED MORE THAN MILD INTEREST; AND EMBASSY PLNS PURSUE THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH HUNGARIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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SIDE.

4. IN MORE GENERAL CONVERSATION THAT FOLLOWED PROFESSOR SIMAI AGAIN -- AS WITH CHARLES BARTLETT (BUDAPEST 4012) -- WAS MUCH MORE BULLISH ON HUNGARY'S FUTURE ECONOMIC PROSPECTS EVEN FOR THE SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM THAN ANY GOH SPOKESMAN. ON THE OTHER HAND, WHILE CAREFULLY DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPEAN STATES, HE IS DECIDELY BEARISH WITH RESPECT WESTERN EUROPE'S SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC PROSPECTS. COMBINATION OF "STRUCTURAL INADEQUACIES," "SOCIAL DISEQUILIBRIUM" AND HIGH RAW MATERIAL COSTS WILL, IN HIS VIEW, CAUSE WESTERN EUROPEAN ECONOMIES TO WALLOW IN ECONOMIC TROUGH FOR MORE THAN A LITTE WHILE. MCAULIFFE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, SEMINARS, INVITATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 31 DEC 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BLIDAPE04149

Document Number: 1975BUDAPE04149 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750451-0077 From: BUDAPEST

Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975122/aaaaabjo.tel Line Count: 74

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 302578, 75 BUDAPEST 4012
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 04 JUN 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: JANUARY 1976 US-HUNGARIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS SEMINAR TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, HU, US, (SIMAI, MIHALY), (MCAULIFFE, EUGENE V)
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006